

Definition: Two edges e and f are in the same biconnected component if there is a simple cycle that contains both e and f .

The following algorithm takes an undirected graph as input and labels each edge so that all edges in the same biconnected component have the same label. It uses back edges to identify cycles. When a back edge from v to w is identified, all edges on the path from w to v in the tree are known to be in the same biconnected component. In addition, any back edges connecting two vertices on that path are also included. The algorithm keeps track of the vertex discovered earliest on any path in the tree. This is accomplished by the variable $low[v]$.

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▷ Assume that the graph is connected; otherwise find connected components first.
▷ The global variable time is initialized to 0.
▷ All edges are labeled as not discovered.
▷ edgeStack contains edges in the current working biconnected component.
▷ Then the following (recursive) procedure is called with an arbitrary start vertex  $v$ 
  and a null parent  $p$ .
function BICON( $v, p$ ) is
  ▷ returns the earliest discovery time for back edges in the subtree rooted at  $v$ 
  mark  $v$  as discovered
  increment time;  $discoverTime[v] \leftarrow time$ 
  ▷ back keeps track of the earliest discovery time for back edges in the subtree rooted at  $v$ 
   $back \leftarrow discoverTime[v]$ 
  for all edges  $vw$  incident to  $v$  do
    if  $w$  is not discovered then    ▷ tree edge
      push  $vw$  onto edgeStack
       $low \leftarrow BICON(w, v)$ 
      if  $low \geq discoverTime[v]$  then    ▷ end of component
        pop everything on edgeStack up to and including  $vw = wv$ 
        and make them the edges of a new component
      endif
       $back \leftarrow \min(low, back)$ 
    else if  $discoverTime[w] < discoverTime[v]$  and  $w \neq p$  then
      ▷ back edge, but not to parent
      push  $vw$  onto edgeStack
       $back \leftarrow \min(low, back)$ 
    endif
  end do
  return  $back$ 
end BICON

```